

## I. IMPROVED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PROVIDING VACCINES

Federal grants to state and local programs will be increased. This will permit hiring more nurses, opening more clinics at more convenient times, making the delivery of services more "user-friendly" developing information systems, and providing incentive funding. CDC will offer financial and technical assistance to public health agencies that will work with private providers to ensure children served by these providers are adequately immunized on time. The plan involves grant awards to 87 state and local government health departments with most funds distributed based on state and local program needs. To provide incentives to stimulate performance, the remaining funds will be awarded to health departments based on their progress toward reaching immunization coverage goals. For fiscal year 1994, new CII activities will amount to a total of about \$90 million.

Technical assistance will take a variety of forms, including conference, phone consultation, publications, and on-site collaboration, training, and sharing of information between CDC and state and local health departments. The primary purpose is to share successful methods and technologies that are developed by one community quickly and effectively with other communities. The practice and policies of health care providers will be improved to reduce the number of missed opportunities for immunization.

Federal assistance to develop state-based immunization information systems will strengthen immediately the capacity of providers at all levels to manage the information they need to raise and sustain high immunization levels. More specifically, these systems will help: 1) parents to know when immunizations are due, 2) providers to assess the immunization needs of their patients, old and new, at each office visit, and 3) providers to monitor the immunization coverage of their patient population as a whole. For fiscal year 1994 these grants will amount to \$8 million.

**Objective 1:** Assist states and communities in meeting coverage goals by developing a comprehensive immunization infrastructure

**Action Steps:**

- a. Provide financial and direct assistance to state and local health departments to implement their approaches
- b. Provide ongoing technical support to states and local health department